



AA EXCHANGE BULLETIN

NEWS AND NOTES ON ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS WORLDWIDE

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November, 1961

WE ARE GRATEFUL . .

For the gift of sobriety and for the opportunity to serve at GSO. We are also grateful for our chance to - write to a new guy or gal who has written us for help - provide information for a TV station that wants to cooperate with a local A.A. group - pass on accumulated group and service experience so groups and members in every part of the world can share in the growth of A.A. as a whole. We are grateful for your contributions that make General Service possible.

WIESBADEN ROUNDUP

The annual Roundup, held again over Labor Day weekend, in Wiesbaden, Germany, was another memorable occasion. Started in 1954 by American servicemen stationed in Germany, the Roundup is now attended by A.A.'s from many countries throughout Europe.

Don A., Stuttgart Group, writes, "It is a wonderful gathering - representatives from all over Germany and from Belgium, Spain, Holland, Austria, Switzerland, England and Scotland. We had two meetings yesterday, one this afternoon, and a banquet tonight. Although small compared with stateside conferences, it is great in spirit. Communication - A.A.'s "language of the heart" - that Bill W. talks about, is very much in evidence here. Yesterday morning I experienced it myself. I had breakfast with Gustav, from Austria, and Olga, from Switzerland, and although none of us spoke the others' native tongues, we managed to enjoy the fellowship and convey our impressions of A.A. to one another. We are having a marvelous time. The Wiesbaden-Frankfurt people are doing a grand job hosting the Roundup and certainly deserve a pat on the back from one and all."

GRATITUDE LUNCHEON

The General Service Board will entertain twenty representatives from business organizations and communications media at a Gratitude Luncheon on November 16th, at the Biltmore Hotel. The purpose of this luncheon is to say "thank you" to the non-A.A.'s who have helped us tell the A.A. story during the past year or so. The first luncheon of this kind was held by the Board in 1959.

This year again, Bill W. and members of the Board's Public Information Committee will be hosts. Bill will express our thanks to these friends of the Fellowship and bring them up to date on A.A. worldwide.

Among the guests will be representatives from National Association of Broadcasters, National Council of Catholic Men, National Broadcasting Company, New Yorker Magazine, New York Herald-Tribune, France-Soir.

INSTITUTIONAL A. A.

The A. A. prison group at Conservation Camp #41, CLEAR CREEK, CALIFORNIA, would like to correspond with groups on the outside. The Chairman wrote Beth, who handles institutional services, that letters from outside groups would be a great help to Clear Creek group members. They would also like to have A. A. speakers from nearby groups visit them for their meetings.

A. A.'s who wish to help this group please address your letters to - Secretary, Clear Creek A. A. Group, Conservation Camp #41, San Quentin, Clear Creek, Calif.

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The EDEN GROUP, in AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND, has asked us to express their thanks to the other institutional groups who have sent them publications.

1961 DIRECTORY CORRECTION

Our apologies for an error in listing the mailing address for the SOUTH DAKOTA STATE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE. The correct address is -

Page 212 - Jean H. , South Dakota State Conference Committee,
c/o Hand County Memorial Hospital, Miller, South
Dakota.

THE A. A. GRAPEVINE is offering two Christmas Bonuses this year.

Bonus A consists of a 1 year's subscription to the GV, plus AA TODAY - \$4.95
 Bonus B includes a 1 year's subscription to the GV, the Serenity Prayer in color (suitable for framing), copies of the five slogans (each 9" x 12"), and the miniature GV - \$3.95.

The GV asks A. A. members to send in their Christmas orders as early as possible. December 14th is the deadline for mailing orders to be received by Christmas.

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CONTRIBUTIONS TO GSO from
SPECIAL A. A. MEETINGS and A. A. COMMITTEES

8/16/61 - 10/18/61

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|------------------|---|----------|
| ARIZONA | Annual Barbecue at Bisbee | \$ 37.90 |
| CALIFORNIA | Greater Los Angeles Area Zone F | 11.00 |
| IOWA | Des Moines Anniversary Meeting of the Founders Dinner Group | 550.00 |
| MAINE | District #1 | 10.00 |
| MISSOURI | Fourth of July Picnic - St. Joseph | 5.00 |
| PENNSYLVANIA | Eastern Pennsylvania Assembly | 101.76 |
| | Pittsburgh, Cook Forest Conference | 100.00 |
| TEXAS | 16th Annual State Conference at Abilene | 1,420.67 |
| WASHINGTON | Seattle, Lifeline Groups | 50.00 |
| ALBERTA | Grand Centre Round-Up | 24.42 |
| BRITISH COLUMBIA | South Okanagan District Delegate Meeting | 22.00 |
| NEW BRUNSWICK | Murray Corner, Lobster Supper sponsored by the Amherst and Sackville Groups | 11.00 |
| NORWAY | Conference in Narvik | 100.00 |

WELCOME IN HONOLULU

The Secretary of the HALE ALANO CLUB, in HONOLULU, recently wrote to let us know that their clubhouse has become a welcome spot for A. A. Internationalists who make that port. Eddie Mc and Clay B., from the Seven Seas Club, in San Francisco, were recent visitors. The club is open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Phone calls and cables at any hour get immediate attention. Located at 1136 Punchbowl Street, the club is easy to find and is within easy walking distance of the Honolulu business district. The telephone number is 507 265.

TRANSLATIONS ORDER FORMS

Translations of Conference approved literature are increasing and GSO has two new order forms for seven different languages. One form is for Spanish literature and the other lists translations in Finnish, French, German, Norwegian, Portuguese and Swedish.

NEW SPANISH BULLETIN - Because of A.A. growth in Central and South America, GSO is now distributing a monthly bulletin in Spanish to overseas Spanish speaking groups and lone members. In Spanish groups in the United States would like to receive the bulletin regularly, please let Eve M., of GSO Staff, know where to send it.

NEW ! PUBLIC INFORMATION MATERIAL IN SPANISH

Spanish translations of our Background Editorial and Radio/TV material are now available from GSO. These are for A.A. groups and committees to use in their contacts with newspaper editors and/or TV and radio station managers when these people have asked a group to cooperate in public service programs featuring A.A.

SWAHILI PAMPHLET -- "This Is A.A.", our GSO pamphlet, has been translated into Swahili and we have about 200 copies to give away.

Eve M., who's in charge of our overseas service, has already sent copies of this pamphlet to A.A.'s in Northern Rhodesia. Other A.A.'s who would like to have some copies can let Eve know and she'll be glad to send them along.

CHINESE PAMPHLET

"Is A.A. for You?", in Chinese, is available from the A.A. GROUP in SINGAPORE. If you need this in your 12th Step work, let us know and we'll forward your request to the SINGAPORE GROUP.

TWO LETTERS FROM JOHN

Alcoholics Anonymous
P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Station
New York 17, N. Y. - U.S.A.
September 1, 1961

Dear Sir:

I am not going to burden you with another letter such as I suppose you receive every day and by the bunches. No, I am not going to write you a long letter with all the details of my terrible vice of alcohol, but I will tell you in a few words my sad story so you can judge if there is any help for me.

I am 36 years old. I started having a few beers when I was 22. Now I am drinking more and more - day after day - night after night - sleeping on the streets or in jail - with an insatiable thirst that has taken me almost to crime and almost to suicide. This is terrible!

Today, I am at the bottom, in the complete darkness of the pit of alcohol. My family and my friends have run away from me. I have lost my mother, my wife and my sons. I have lost everything. Today, I am completely alone at the border of death because I know that, if I continue drinking, I will commit suicide.

Please help me, help me before it is too late. I know of your organization through the Readers' Digest, where I read a short story of Alcoholics Anonymous. I looked in the telephone book but there is not such an organization in this country, so I am writing direct to you, begging a help before it is too late. My address -

John R., Nicaragua, Central America

September 28, 1961

Dear Miss Eve M.:

I was really surprised to receive such a nice letter from you and in such a short time after I sent my first letter to A.A. You really work in a hurry, or, as we say here, you are "on the ball", doing a wonderful job. I also received some pamphlets. I'm not reading, but studying them. I thank you very much.

Mr. Jack M. came down from Leon the same day I received your letter. You can imagine him, coming from 185 kilometers away, just to see me, without knowing me, without knowing if I was going to receive him or not, if I was going to be friendly or not. And 185 kilometers is a long way!

Mr. M. is a nice person - a wonderful man. He was here with me three full hours during which he opened my eyes and my heart to God. He gave me a lot of pamphlets in English and Spanish and some tape recordings. I'm reading them all. He speaks very good Spanish.

Before he left me, he told me: "Now, John, please drop me a letter or call me on the phone any time you feel you need help and I'll come see you." And I believe he will. Isn't it wonderful - great - marvelous!? Is this the way you all work in A.A.?

Thanks to you and Mr. M. I have learned a lot of A.A. and I have decided to put my life in God's hands and I'm doing my best to be on the good road again. Please forgive my English.

Very truly yours,

John R.